

**John & Tammy
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Jamaica

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Urgent Prayer Need!

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Dear Ministry Partners,

Please forgive us for focusing on the work in Burkina Faso West Africa this month instead of Jamaica, but we received a voice message from Pastor Samuel Tandiaré this week that we were confident you would want to be made aware of. Some of you may remember that in 2019 a village near Burkina's border with Mali, in which our most successful church planting work was located, was, literally, emptied when Muslim terrorists killed two men from the church and warned the entire village that they would murder everyone who did not vacate the village immediately.

When Pastor Samuel messaged this week, the intonation in his voice indicated that five years later similar bad news was about to follow. Contrary to his normally very optimistic tone, Samuel, whose church is located in the eastern region of Burkina, very soberly informed us that some of his church members had been involuntarily displaced and that terrorists had just warned the population of his parents' village that if all of the men from ten to forty years old did not volunteer to fight alongside them against the government their village would be destroyed, and took with them virtually all means of transportation so that they could not escape before their return for a response. Samuel said they were left with only their donkeys and carts in which to pack their belongings to flee to, what they hope, will be a safe haven. They may, or may not, be able to escape in time.

After hearing the message and responding to Samuel, I immediately informed our good friend Missionary Keith Shumaker and asked that he pray for Samuel, his church, and his family to which he responded that four of his church plants had been forced to close as their villages had also been emptied by Muslim terrorists.

It is shameful that while Muslims continue their effort to establish dominion over the world's population by merciless violence public media treats them as if they are victims when those they attack respond in self-defense while ignoring the atrocities they routinely commit against communities of defenseless people.

What they are doing in Burkina Faso, much like what they are doing in multiple other places in the world, is not about righting legitimate wrongs, or defending themselves, but attempting to make Islam the one-and-only religion by genocide when conversion efforts are ineffective.

Their effort is no surprise to God and should be no surprise to Christians given that Jesus warned His first-century disciples, in Matthew chapter 10, that some would think themselves doing God service by persecuting, and even killing, believers. Yet, the shock and loss are no less real and painful. That said, Pastor Samuel, and the entire Christian community in Burkina, need prayer that the Lord would preserve them, their families, and their congregations and, at the same time, make their evangelistic efforts more fruitful than ever.

Your faithfulness in prayer was essential to the establishment of Samuel's church, as well as many others, and is now essential to the very physical survival of those reached. Thank you for making this terrible situation a prayer priority!

John & Tammy Cooley, Jamaica